

This event is part of the MEGA campaign



EUROPEAN CIVIC DAYS

CITIZENSHIP - PARTICIPATION - POLICIES: BUILDING EUROPE FROM GRASSROOTS UP

29-30 MAY 2018
Sofia, Bulgaria

Organised by:



DRAFT PROGRAMME

29 MAY 2018 **ACTION TIME: CITIZENS PARTICIPATION FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE (PROJECT LAB)**

09:30 **OPENING THE WORKSHOP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS**
Pavel ANTONOV & Plamen PEEV, BlueLink foundation

10:00 **THREE COUNTRIES, THREE TOPICS OF JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENT**
Siim VAHRUS, EELC, Estonia - on environmental assessment
Plamen PEEV, BlueLink foundation, Strategic environmental assessments
Enes GERIMAGIC, Zelena Akcija, Croatia - on energy and climate

12:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:00 **THE BULGARIAN CASE: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS: DISCUSSION**
Representatives of the For the Nature Coalition international speakers, other civil society participants
MODERATOR: Plamen PEEV, BlueLink foundation

15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30 **TRUTH-BASED JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRATIC CIVIL SOCIETY**
SPEAKERS: Pavel ANTONOV, Co-founder, BlueLink Foundation
Silvia VELIKOVA, Journalist
Irina NEDEVA, Association of European Journalists
Vladimir SESTOVIC, European Civic Forum
Giada NEGRI, European Civic Forum

19:00 **WELCOME RECEPTION**
BlueLink turning 20: We know what we want - Anniversary celebration
Making the case for civil society: Call to mobilisation - 10 December

30 MAY 2018 **CIVIC SPACE AND PARTICIPATION – HOW TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES (CLUB PEROTO, NDK)**

09:00 **REGISTRATION AND WELCOME & COFFEE BREAK**

09:30 **OPENING SESSION**

SPEAKERS: Assya KAVRAKOVA, Director, European Citizen Action Service
Jean-Marc ROIRANT, President, European Civic Forum
Iva TARALEZHKOVA, Chair, Citizen Participation Forum
Pavel ANTONOV, BlueLink Foundation

10:00 **KEY NOTE**
"Citizen Participation: a lost cause?"

SPEAKER: Richard YOUNGS, Senior fellow in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program, Carnegie Europe, London

10:30 **THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

SPEAKERS: Dessi HRISTOVA, Citizen Participation Forum, Bulgaria
Citizen Participation Index: the state of affairs in Bulgaria
Marin LESSENSKI, Open Society Institute of Sofia, Bulgaria
The Catch Up Index: Democracy & Governance
Lawrence QUINTANO, Executive Board member, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Carlotta BESOZZI, Coordinator, Civil Society Europe
MODERATOR: Luben PANOV, European Centre for not-for-profit Law

12:00 **LUNCH**

13:00 **CO-DECIDING WITH CITIZENS**

SPEAKERS: Pascal HERRY, Team Leader, Secretariat-General, European Commission
The European Citizens' Initiative
Daniela BOZHINOVA, Chair, BAPCI
Annija EMERSONE, Manabalss.lv, Latvia,
Citizen initiatives platform on national level
Krassimir BOZHANOV, Bulgarian Council of Ministers
Open Government Partnership: a case of co-deciding
Elisa LIRONI, Digital Democracy Manager, ECAS
ECI Online Collaborative Platform
MODERATOR: Assya KAVRAKOVA, Executive Director, ECAS

14:30 **THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE**
How the EU citizens can shape the EU Future - European Commission information campaign

SPEAKERS: Pascal HERRY, Team Leader, Secretariat-General, European Commission
Presentation of the EU activities on participatory democracy - EU and BG
Fabien DONGRADI, Campaign Manager at GOPA Com
Representative of Bulgarian stakeholders (TBC)

16:00

COFFEE BREAK

16:15

THINK LOCAL, ACT EUROPEAN - TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY TO MAKE EUROPE GREAT FOR ALL

SPEAKERS:

Camille CHAMPEAUX, Collectif On ne se taira pas, France
Radostina PAVLOVA, ECI Campaign We are a Welcoming Europe
Natasha DOKOVSKA, Journalists for Human Rights / World March of Women, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)
Cristian PIRVULESCU, President, Asociatia Pro Democratia, Romania
Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ, Director, European Civic Forum

MODERATOR:

DISCUSSANTS:

Maarten DE GROOT, ECI campaign
Marta LEMPART, organiser, Polish Women's Strike

17:45

THE ROAD AHEAD OF CIVIL SOCIETY WITHIN THE EU

Conclusions and recommendations to be passed to Austrian partners during the Austrian Presidency of the Council of EU
Franz NEUNTEUFL, Director, Interest Group of Public Benefit Organisations
Iva TARALEZHKOVA, Chair, Citizen Participation Forum
Alexandrina NAJMOWICZ, Director, European Civic Forum

18:30

CITIZENS AND THE EU: EXHIBITION

19:00

DINNER PARTY AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

BACKGROUND

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS and carrying forward the legacy of civil society forums in countries holding the EU Presidencies over the last ten years, the European Civic Forum joins forces with the Citizen Participation Forum, the Blue Link Foundation and the European Citizen Action Service to organize a European conference “**Citizenship – Participation – Policies: Building Europe from Grassroots up**” on 29-31 May in Sofia..

Taking stock of the current state of democracy and civic space in Europe, this conference will spot positive examples of civic engagement and co-decision in policy making, placing civic participation in the broader context of European democracy with growing demands from citizens to have a real say in shaping their future in common?

As democratic representation is facing an unprecedented crisis of legitimacy and the gap between politics and citizens has been widening, in many cities, regions, countries, and often transnationally, new

forms of engagement are emerging, outside the box of representative democracy

Civic actors and movements build power upon strong local or regional support, but their claims need to be addressed in a wider context, as we leave now in a multi-level governance system where policy-making responsibility is shared among a variety of actors at European, national and local levels.

How can the European Union better take into account its citizens concerns and expectations? What place should civil society organisations have in changing the way citizens are involved in decision-making? What are the challenges and opportunities of co-deciding with citizens at local, national and European levels.

This event provides a unique space for civic actors to share and learn from different experiences, hear from a variety of stakeholders and envision ways forward towards a renewal of the European democracy along core values of equality, solidarity and inclusiveness